

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-18 are pending in the application. Claims 11-13, 15 and 6 are allowed. Claims 8-10 and 18 stand objected to. Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 17 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 8-10 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. The Examiner states that the prior art of record fails to teach the use and method of installing a plurality of siding strips on a wall by using a bowed component having a first and second U-shaped receiving sections projecting on opposing sides of the body; wherein the component further includes a fastener receiving section.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,586,422 to Hoffner.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,586,422 to Hoffner.

The Examiner has stated that claims 8-10 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. To expedite prosecution of the aforementioned application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to contain the subject matter of claim 8 and have canceled claim 8 herein. Claim 9 has been amended to correct dependency. Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 18 and claim 18 has been canceled herein. Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 ultimately depend from currently amended claim 1 and are allowable as such.

EXAMINER'S COPY

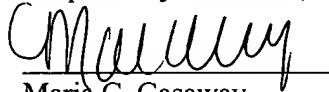
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 17 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 17 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's agent at the number listed below.

If any fees are required pertaining to this response, Applicant request that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria C. Gasaway

Reg. No. 51,721

Date 9/10/03

Owens Corning
2790 Columbus Road, Bldg. 54
Granville, OH 43023
(740) 321-7213